

Catholic Church Infant Baptism Information

Introduction

Baptism is the foundation of Christian life and the gateway to the Church's other sacraments. Through Baptism, we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God where we become members of Christ and His Church. Planning for this sacrament should begin by contacting the parish office at least three months in advance. Please do not make any formal arrangements or plans until a date has been confirmed through the parish office. Infant Baptisms are performed after the 12:00 PM Sunday Mass on every second and last Sunday of the month for English speaking parishioners and on the first Sunday after the 12:00 PM Mass for Spanish speaking parishioners. Given a reasonable assurance that your child will be raised according to the Catholic faith, any child, at any age, is welcome to be Baptized. Should one of the parents not be Catholic, and are not married or are estranged, permission of both parents is required. In case of either separation or estrangement, a written and notarized letter of permission to have the child baptized is mandatory.

Preparation

If you are a local resident, we require the parent(s) to register as parishioners of Saint Matthew. In the event that the parent(s) are former parish members, but are registered elsewhere, we do require a letter of permission from the pastor of that parish at which they are registered. The parent(s) must attend a Baptismal Preparation Class which is required under Canon Law- if they have not attended such a class within the past three years. All baptisms in our parish are ordinarily celebrated by our pastor or a deacon or priest delegated by him.

Sponsors

A sponsor / godparent is to be a witness, an inspiration, and an example of how a Catholic should live in today's world. They are entrusted with the responsibility to be an active participant in the life of the Church and the person they are sponsoring. This means proclaiming their faith through their actions and the life they lead each and every day. Through the personal witness of prayer, active attendance at weekly Mass, and living the Gospel values, they pass the Catholic faith on to others. In this light, at least one Godparent must be an active, practicing Catholic who has been Baptized and Confirmed. They must have a sealed sponsor letter from the parish which they attend, attesting to their eligibility as a sponsor. It is the obligation of the parish where the godparent is registered, to verify that they are both an active and practicing Catholic. The second Godparent may be a baptized non-Catholic Christian and would be designated as a Christian witness. You may have one or two sponsor(s)/ godparent(s), however they may not be of the same gender. They must be a male and a female. Among other factors, many parishes rely upon the use of offertory envelopes to assist them in making this determination. Please do not assume that your parish will automatically provide a letter without the ability to confirm your attendance, support, and participation.

Please contact me to answer any questions or begin preparation for Baptism.

Blessings

Deacon Frank

Deaconfrank629@gmail.com